Military Suicide Attitudes Scale – Short Form (MSAQ-SF)

Instructions: This is not a test but a survey of your opinions. There are no right or wrong answers – only your honest opinion counts. Please select the option that most closely describes your opinion, using the following scale:

1 = Strongly Disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neutral
4 = Agree
5 = Strongly Agree

_____ 1. (3) It is wrong for a service member to attempt suicide.
_____ 2. (5) Suicide is selfish.
_____ 3. (8) I would trust a service member who has made a suicide attempt to make ethical decisions.*
_____ 4. (9) Choosing suicide is morally wrong.
_____ 5. (10) A service member who attempts suicide deserves understanding and empathy.
_____ 6. (11) Unit support can help prevent suicide.
_____ 7. (13) A service member who attempts suicide requires help and support from his military unit as well as leadership.
_____ 8. (17) People who attempt suicide should be given time to receive help.
_____ 9. (20) Suicide is not acceptable to my religious beliefs.
_____ 10. (22) I do not want to be in a unit with someone who has a history of a suicide attempt or suicidal thoughts.
_____ 11. (23). Suicide violates our military core values.
_____ 12. (24) Those who commit suicide do not think about how it will affect their unit.
_____ 13. (25) People who attempt suicide would benefit from support from their unit members.
_____ 14. (26) I can understand how the stressors of military life can lead someone to think about suicide.
_____ 15. (28) Admitting thoughts of suicide should not harm someone's career.
_____ 16. (29) A person who attempts suicide must be in a lot of pain.
_____ 17. (30) People who attempt suicide should not be eligible for promotion or leadership billets.
_____ 18. (31) I would feel uncomfortable if I learned someone I was working with was suicidal.

Notes: Numbers in parentheses are item numbers from original MSAQ.
Scoring: * = reverse coded 3
F1. Discomfort: Sum 3, 10, 17, 18
F2. Unacceptability: Sum 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 12
F3. Empathic Views: Sum 5, 8, 14, 15, 16
F4. Support: Sum 6, 7, 13